## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS

TO: Securetradesonline.com
Mark Williams
18333 Wildlife Way Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817

## **DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**

(For violations of sections 17200, 17210.2 and 17403 of the California Financial Code)

The California Corporations Commissioner finds that:

- 1. Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams have engaged in the business of an escrow agent by advertising escrow services over the internet at <a href="https://www.securetradesonline.com">www.securetradesonline.com</a> from 2004 to the present as follows:
- a) Securetradesonline.com represents on its website that the process works as follows: The buyer and seller agree to the terms of the transaction. The buyer pays Securetradesonline.com, which verifies the payment. Securetradesonline.com notifies the seller to ship its merchandise and then verifies that the buyer receives the shipment. The buyer accepts the goods.
- 22 | Securetradesonline.com then pays the seller and the transaction is complete.
  - b) Securetradesonline.com claims to protect both the buyer and the seller from fraud with this process.
  - c) Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams have represented that the escrow services provided by Securetradesonline.com are provided by Internet Escrow Services (IES), and that IES is "fully licensed and accredited as an escrow company and is subject to compliance with all applicable escrow regulations." In fact, IES is an affiliate of Escrow.com and

Securetradesonline.com is not affiliated with either IES or Escrow.com.

d) Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams have represented that Securetradesonline.com holds escrow license number 963-1167. In fact, California escrow license number 963-1167 was issued to Escrow Services of the Central Coast, Inc. The license was suspended on April 5, 1996, and surrendered on May 20, 1996.

2. Neither Securetradesonline.com nor Mark Williams has been issued a license from the Commissioner authorizing them to conduct business as an escrow agent, as required by California Financial Code section 17200.

3. Neither Securetradesonline.com nor Mark Williams is exempt from the licensing

requirements of Section 17200.

- 4. Neither Securetradesonline.com nor Mark Williams has been issued a license from the Commissioner authorizing them to use words indicating that they are in the escrow business, as required by California Financial Code section 17403.
- 5. Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams have disseminated or caused to be disseminated false, misleading and/or deceptive statements or representations which refer to Uktripledeal.net's affiliation with IES, when, in fact, Securetradesonline.com is not affiliated with IES in any way.

Based upon the foregoing findings, the California Corporations Commissioner is of the opinion that Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams and their officers directors, partners, agents, employees and/or servants are in violation of California Financial Code sections 17200, 17210.2(a) and 17403(a). Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17416, Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams are hereby ordered to desist and refrain from engaging in the business of receiving escrows for deposit or delivery without first obtaining a license from the Commissioner. Pursuant to

	California Financial Code section 17403(b), Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams are further
	ordered to immediately desist and refrain from issuing, circulating, or publishing any advertisement
	by means of any communication, including any website, or making use of or circulating any
	letterheads, billheads, blank notes, blank receipts, blank escrow instructions, certificates, circulars, or
	any written or printed paper containing any fictitious or corporate name or other words indicating that
	they are in the escrow business. Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17210.2(c),
	Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams are further ordered to immediately desist and refrain
	from disseminating, or causing or permitting to be disseminated, in any manner whatsoever, any
	statement or representation which is false, misleading, or deceptive, or which omits to state material
	information, or which refers to the supervision of that agent by the State of California or any
	department or official thereof. Securetradesonline.com and Mark Williams are further ordered to
	immediately desist and refrain from disseminating or causing or permitting to be disseminated, in any
	manner whatsoever, any statement or representation that Securetradesonline.com is in any manner
	associated with IES.
	This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of investors and consistent with the
	purposes, policies and provisions of the California Escrow Law. This order shall remain in full force
	and effect until further order of the California Corporations Commissioner.
	Dated: February 11, 2005
	Sacramento, California
	WILLIAM P. WOOD
	California Corporations Commissioner
	By:
	WAYNE STRUMPFER
	Acting Deputy Commissioner
	Enforcement and Legal Services
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